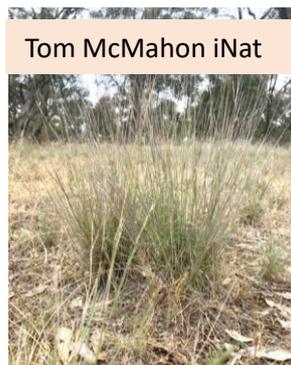
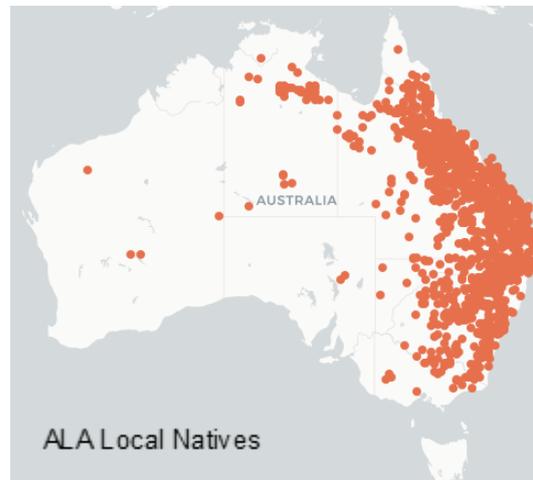
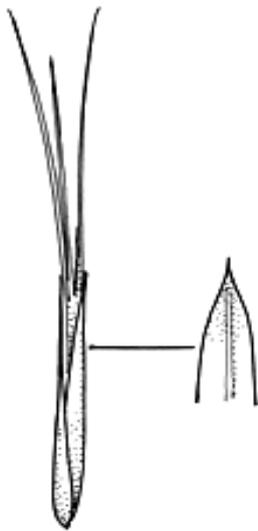


Poaceae

Aristida calycina var calycina

dark wiregrass

Ann Moran
Field Botanist



ETYMOLOGY

(a-RIS-tid-a) Greek arista = awned alluding to trifid awn; The species calycina (cal-lee-SY-nah) from Greek of the calyx; from kalyx = cup + ina = belonging to; The subtending glumes are as long as or longer than the lemma thereby resembling a cup.

LIFEFORM

Grass 30-100 cm

STATUS

Occurs in eastern Australia from Cape York Qld in Vic and extending into tropical NT, WA Grows with *Acacia harpophylla*, *Callitris*, *Eucalyptus*. WA Conservation Code Priority Two Gurulmundi, Miles Qld, to NSW, Vic, WA, NT (All mainland states except for SA)

OCCURS

QLD DISTRICTS

Burke, Burnett, Cook, Darling Downs, Leichhardt, Maranoa, Mitchell, Moreton, North/South Kennedy, Port Curtis, Warrego

HABITAT

Inland woodland

LEAVES

Blades, 20-25 cm x 1-4 mm, surface smooth scabrous, narrow fairly coarse, straight, filiform, linear, flat, conduplicate, involute, convolute,

FLOWERS

Panicle 12-31.5 cm x 2-20 cm, linear to elliptic; Spikelet, 15cm, purple lemma grooves smooth with open branched; **Flowering times** All year

FRUIT

Primary panicle branches 2.5-18 cm long. purple Lemma groove. Hygroscopic behaviour of awn means tissues twist, curl, or straighten in response to changing humidity helping the seed drill into soil. **Fruiting times** April, May

ROOTS

Dense fibrous roots

STEM

Loosely tufted perennial grass, dark thick nodes; Plant distinctly wiry stems

ETHNOBOTANY

Little Fodder value, however, becomes more prominent under heavy grazing, eaten to some extent by cattle when the plant is young.

TOLERANCE

Full Sun, drought tolerant poor soils

SOILS

Sandy Red Earth in Forest Country in the North east of Miles

WILDLIFE

Good habitat plant providing refuge; Food source for small birds and animals; Leaves eaten by Eastern Grey Kangaroo.

INSECTS

Collix ghosha (Moth)

BUTTERFLY

Mycalesis perseus Dingy Bush-brown

ID FEATURE

Leaves rolled or folded + Nodes often thickened + Inflorescences with thickened base to branches + **Purple** Glumes 1-nerved, involute & no tubercles smooth
1-1.4 cm: 3 awned